

**MINUTES
MACOMB COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2005**

President Perna began the meeting at 7:30 a.m. held at Freedom Hill County Park.

In Attendance:

James M. Perna, President
Gasper Salerno, Vice-President
Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Dino F. Bucci Jr., Sgt. At Arms
Fran Gillett
Anthony J. Lipinski
Peter J. Lund
Timothy M. Malone
Dolores Thomas, Rep. Anthony Marrocco
Marvin Sauger
Betty Slinde

Others Present:

Anthony G. Casasanta, Sharon Quinn and Dave Humbyrd, Macomb County Parks & Recreation; George Brumbaugh and Jim Meyerand, Corporation Counsel; Kevin Cassidy, Cindy Rhodes Victor, and Hank Riberas, Hillside Productions; Tony Mannino, St. Ronald's Festival

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION BY BUCCI, SUPPORTED BY THOMAS WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS UNDER CORRESPONDENCE A. HILLSIDE'S AGREEMENT & CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF SUBLEASE AND B. AIR FORCE BAND REQUEST. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Fran Parker of Sterling Heights asked for clarification on an article in the Macomb Daily regarding Hillside and parking fees. She also asked if underground costs have been paid and whether the contract can be opened. Ms. Parker hopes the Master Plan has something available for kids at the County Park and also complimented the Park on having the Veteran's Vietnam Traveling Wall over Labor Day weekend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY SLINDE WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 10th AND SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 25th, 2005. MOTION CARRIED.

BUDGET REPORT

Mr. Casasanta asked the Commission if there were any questions on the budget.

MOTION BY SAUGER, SUPPORTED BY SALERNO WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORTS. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE

Hillside's Agreement and Consent to Assignment

Mr. Perna recommended that Corporation Counsel review this agreement. Mr. Brumbaugh stated it would be appropriate for the Commission to be provided with written information from Hillside before the next Park Commission meeting relative to what is the new corporation PSE Hillside, LLC, who will be running the amphitheater and who are the principals. He further went on to say our contract says the Commission gets to approve any assignment but the approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Commission needs to be reassured that the amphitheater is going to be operating professionally by people with experience. Mr. Brumbaugh stated we are going to take a look at the proposed agreement and we may come up with something else to look at.

Motion was made by Klein to table and move this item and bring forth the additional information recommended by Mr. Brumbaugh to a different meeting.

Mr. Perna asked Mr. Riberas from Hillside to address the Commission. Mr. Riberas reiterated the correspondence re: Agreement and Consent to Assignment of Sublease Freedom Hill Amphitheater.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Riberas commented previous agreements have been executed and approved by this body independent of the County Board of Commissioners and asked how it will be handled now.

Mr. Brumbaugh responded that the County Board of Commissioners is in charge, they have different commissions who are given authority, however authority can be taken away. They can also determine how they want to deal with these issues. The Chair has indicated that she wants this matter reviewed by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Brumbaugh stated the Parks Commission can sign this agreement and if the Full Board approves, they will sign.

Amended Motion

MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY LUND WAS MADE TO PLACE THIS AGENDA ITEM AT THE NEXT REGULAR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING ON OCTOBER 12, 2005. MOTION CARRIED.

Air Force Band Request

Mr. Casasanta stated Sgt. Gregory Sell responded the Air Force Band would be available to perform on the 4th of July 2006. Mr. Casasanta reported he would be communicating the need for parking fees but there would be no admissions for Air Force Band of Flight concert.

Commissioner Lund asked Mr. Cassidy about the use of the amphitheater. Mr. Cassidy responded per the lease agreement, the Park can request and use the amphitheater at no cost.

Mr. Perna asked for a response from Sgt. Sell reference the parking fee issue prior to November 1, 2005.

OLD BUSINESS

Independence Hall Agreement

Mr. Brumbaugh explained Hillside has not changed their position relative to the July letter. Ms. Victor indicated that Mr. Roncelli and Mr. Vicari are willing to sit down and talk with representatives of the Parks Board to discuss issues on Independence Hall.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Perna requested Mr. Brumbaugh to set up a meeting with Hillside Productions.

MOTION BY SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY KLEIN WAS MADE TO HAVE SAME PARKS COMMISSIONERS (BUCCI, LUND, MALONE, SAUGER) ATTEND THE MEETING WITH HILLSIDE PRODUCTIONS REGARDING THE INDEPENDENCE HALL. MOTION CARRIED, WITH COMMISSIONER SLINDE VOTING NO.

Freedom Hill County Park Master Plan

Mr. Casasanta displayed an aerial view map and outlined amenities, infrastructure and landscaping plans for the park. These ideas for the Master Plan will become part of the Open Space Comprehensive Plan in an effort to receive DNR grant monies.

Discussion ensued.

A MOTION BY SLINDE, SUPPORTED BY SAUGER WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE FREEDOM HILL MASTER PLAN. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

St. Ronald's Summer Festival Request June 23-25, 2006

WCSX Pet-a-Palooza Request July 29-30, 2006

Mr. Casasanta reported on 2006 written requests to hold events for St. Ronald's Festival and Pet-a-Palooza. Mr. Casasanta stated he is working on new rates based on real costs.

A discussion ensued.

A MOTION BY LUND, SUPPORTED BY SALERNO WAS MADE APPROVING ST. RONALD'S FESTIVAL FOR JUNE 23-25, 2006 AND PET-A-PALOOZA FOR JULY 29-30, 2006, ASSUMING NEW RATES FOR 2006. MOTION CARRIED.

2004 Independent Audit Report – Parks & Recreation Commission

Mr. Casasanta reported that he went before the Budget Committee last month to answer questions concerning the audit report. He stated the Park is in compliance with national bookkeeping standards and conforms to all accounting principals as set forth by standards in government.

A MOTION BY SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY SLINDE WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2004 INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION. MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

Commissioner Klein asked about the complaint letter in the packet. Mr. Casasanta explained typically the Park receives a few complaints seasonally from patrons who experience difficulty finding their vehicle.

Commissioner Malone asked about the status of correspondence by Risk Management & Safety regarding power lines at the amphitheater. Mr. Casasanta responded he has not heard any more about this.

Ms. Thomas asked if answers could be given relative to public questions brought up during meetings. President Perna stated we follow the same policy the Full Board utilizes which is through written requests.

Mr. Brumbaugh asked permission for Corporation Counsel to respond to Hillside's July 7, 2005 letter and recommended the Park Commission go on record with a response.

MOTION BY SALERNO, SUPPORTED BY MALONE WAS MADE TO HAVE CORPORATION COUNSEL RESPOND TO HILLSIDE'S JULY 7, 2005 LETTER AND INDICATE BY CORRESPONDENCE THAT THE COUNTY HAS NOT BREACHED THE CONTRACT AND HILLSIDE SHOULD HONOR THE CONTRACT. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION BY KLEIN, SUPPORTED BY THOMAS WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

President Perna adjourned the Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission meeting at 8:20 a.m.

Sincerely,

Ann E. Klein, Secretary
Macomb County Parks & Recreation Commission

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